

County News and Views

JUNE 2001

From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

"Watt's" Going On, California?

As you know, California is in the midst of a tremendous power crunch. The California Independent System Operator, the organization that manages the power grid for the state of California, anticipates a daily shortage of power ranging from 2,500 to 10,000 megawatts (MW). This is equal to enough power to supply between 2.5 and 10 million households each day. To avoid or reduce the number of blackouts this summer, we all need to do as much as possible to save electricity, especially during the peak demand hours in the afternoon and evening.

There are four basic components to any energy conservation program- Economize, Repair Leaks, Install Energy-Saving Devices and Invest in Energy-Saving Improvements.

***Economize** -Think about all the things you use in a day that are powered by electricity. With so many of them, it's easy to take for granted that electricity will always be plentiful and cheap. You must be conscious of energy you use and look for ways to use less whenever you can. Think as you use energy!

***Repair Leaks** -Simply installing weather stripping, caulking leaky doors and windows, and installing gaskets behind outlet covers can save up to 10% on energy costs.

***Install Energy-Saving Devices** -Multitudes of inexpensive devices are available to reduce energy use. Many are easy to install, but save greatly on heating and cooling costs. These include: clean furnace filters once a month, compact fluorescent light bulbs, low flow showerheads and jacket insulation for your water heater. Combined you could realize more than 35% savings on heating and cooling costs.

***Invest in Energy-Saving Improvements** - Energy efficient appliances and electronics, programmable thermostats,

ceiling insulation and high efficiency windows are just a few of the many investments you can make in your home to realize tremendous savings.

Businesses can also benefit from energy conservation. Here are some tips for reducing electrical usage of office equipment:

***Turn off PCs, monitors, printers, copiers and lights every night and every weekend. If you can't turn off the entire computer, turn off the monitor and printer.**

***When purchasing PCs, monitors, printers, fax machines and copiers, consider models that "power down" after a user-specified period of inactivity. If appropriate, use laptop computers – they consume 90% less energy than standard desktop computers.**

***If appropriate, use ink-jet printers – they consume 90% less energy than laser printers.**

***Implement paper-reducing strategies such as double-sided printing and reusing of paper.**

***Use e-mail instead of sending memos or faxing documents.**

***Purchase appropriately sized copiers for your company's needs.**

For a more complete list, check out the websites below or call the California Energy Commission, (916) 654-4989, or the State Department of General Services, (916) 445-3441.

www.flexyourpower.ca.gov

www.caiso.com

www.ladwp.com

www.energy.ca.gov/education

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

State of the County Address
Delivered by Board of Supervisor's Chairman Aguiar
June 11, 2001 at 11:30 am
Luncheon - \$25 per person
Radisson Hotel in San Bernardino
Call 909-387-5031 for more information or reservations.

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